

## Radio drama Script

NARRATOR: Extract of "La Casa de Bernarda Alba". Act III.

Four white walls, bathed in pale blue light, in the internal courtyard of Bernarda's house. It is night. The setting should be utterly simple. The doorways, illuminated by interior lighting, cast a bright glow on the stage. In the centre is a table with an oil lamp, at which Bernarda and her daughters are eating. La Poncia is serving them. Prudencia is seated apart. As the curtain rises there is a complete silence, broken only by the sound of plates and cutlery.

(Indoor acoustic, clock ticking)

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PRUDENCIA: I should go. It's been a long visit. (She rises.)

BERNARDA: Stay. We never see each other.

PRUDENCIA: Has the last bell for the rosary sounded?

LA PONCIA: Not yet. (Prudencia sits down.)

BERNARDA: And how is your husband?

PRUDENCIA: The same.

BERNARDA: We never see him either.

PRUDENCIA: You know what he's like. Since he quarrelled with his brothers over the inheritance he never goes out the front door, he uses a ladder and climbs over the wall by the stable-yard.

BERNARDA: So like a man. And your daughter...?

PRUDENCIA: He hasn't forgiven her.

BERNARDA: He's right.

PRUDENCIA: I don't know what to say. It makes me suffer.

BERNARDA: A disobedient daughter ceases to be your daughter and instead becomes your enemy.

PRUDENCIA: I let it flow over me. The only comfort I have is to take refuge in the church, but now I'm losing my sight I'll have to stop going so the children won't mock at me. (A heavy blow against the wall is heard.)

- FX: bang against the wall

PRUDENCIA: What was that?

BERNARDA: The stallion, he's shut in, and kicks at the wall. (Calling out) Hobble him, and let him out in the yard! (In a lower voice) He must be hot.

PRUDENCIA: Are you going to let him loose on the new mares?

BERNARDA: At dawn.

PRUDENCIA: You've done well to increase your stable.

BERNARDA: By dint of pain and money.

LA PONCIA: (La Poncia interrupts) And now she's got the best stable in the region! It's a shame prices are so low.

BERNARDA: Would you like some honey and cheese?

PRUDENCIA: I don't feel like eating. (Another blow is heard.)

- FX: Bang against the wall

LA PONCIA: Dear God!

PRUDENCIA: That went straight to my heart!

BERNARDA: (Rising angrily) Do I have to say everything twice? Let him out to roll in the straw! (She pauses, and as if speaking to the stable lads) Shut the mares in the stable, but let him out, before he brings the wall down. (She goes back to the table and sits down) Ay, what a life!

PRUDENCIA: You have to do a man's work.

BERNARDA: That's right. (Adela gets up from the table) Where are you going?

ADELA: For a drink of water.

BERNARDA: (Bernarda calls the maid) Bring a jug of fresh water. (To Adela) You can sit down. (Adela sits)

PRUDENCIA: And Angustias, when does she get married?

BERNARDA: They'll ask for her hand in three days time.

PRUDENCIA: You must be very happy!

ANGUSTIAS: Of course! (Magdalena shifts uncomfortably and knocks the salt off the table)

- FX: Sound of the jar against the floor

AMELIA: Now, you've spilt the salt!

MAGDALENA: Things can't be worse for you than they are already.

PRUDENCIA: It always brings bad luck.

BERNARDA: Enough of that!

PRUDENCIA: So Angustias... Has he given you the ring yet?

ANGUSTIAS: (Displaying it) See for yourself.

PRUDENCIA: It's beautiful. Three pearls. In my day pearls signified tears.

ANGUSTIAS: Well times have changed.

ADELA: I don't think so. Such things mean the same. An engagement ring should be set with diamonds.

PRUDENCIA: That's more appropriate.

BERNARDA: With pearls or without them, it's what you make of things.

MARTIRIO: Or what God makes of them.

PRUDENCIA: They tell me your furniture is fine too.

BERNARDA: It's cost me a small fortune.

LA PONCIA: (Intervening) The best piece is the wardrobe, with a mirror.

PRUDENCIA: I've never seen a wardrobe with a mirror.

BERNARDA: All we had was a chest.

PRUDENCIA: What's important is that everything works out for the best.

ADELA: One can never tell.

BERNARDA: There's no reason why it shouldn't. (The distant sound of bells is heard.)

- FX: Sound of church bells

PRUDENCIA: The last call. (To Angustias) I'll visit again so you can show me your trousseau.

ANGUSTIAS: Whenever you wish.

PRUDENCIA: God give us goodnight.

BERNARDA: Goodbye, Prudencia.

THE FIVE DAUGHTERS: God go with you. (Pause. Prudencia exits and, the sisters and mother finish dinner.)

- FX: Footsteps, door opening, and closing. Sound of dishes and cutlery.

BERNARDA: We've finished. (They rise. Magdalena sits down in a low chair against the wall.)

- FX: Chair creaking sound

ADELA: I'm going to the main door to stretch my legs and get some air.

AMELIA: I'll go with you.

MARTIRIO: And I.

ADELA: (With suppressed hatred) I won't get lost.

AMELIA: Darkness begs company. (They leave. Bernarda sits. Angustias is clearing the table.)

- FX: Footsteps, door opening, and closing.

BERNARDA: I've told you, I want you to talk to your sister Martirio. What happened with the photograph was a joke and should be forgotten.

ANGUSTIAS: You know she doesn't like me.

BERNARDA: Each sees into their own heart. I never pry into hearts, but I desire a united front and family harmony. Do you understand?

ANGUSTIAS: Yes.

BERNARDA: Then that's fine.

MAGDALENA: (Half-asleep) Anyway, you'll have left here before you know it! (She falls asleep)

ANGUSTIAS: Not soon enough.

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Music: Prologue - Bernarda Alba - Piano Accompaniment/Rehearsal Track

NARRATOR: Hello, we have been the “AV Ladies” representing a fragment of 'The House of Bernarda Alba', in perspective of the announcement that the production company A24, is going to adapt Federico Garcia Lorca’s famous play to the big screen, in conjunction with Margot Robbie's company, 'LuckyChap Entertainment'.

“The House of Bernarda Alba' is the drama of the five sisters locked up by their mother to mourn the death of their father in early 20th century Spain, which will be brought to the present day in a Miami suburb.

At the moment, the only confirmed actress in the cast of 'Alba' is Jenna Ortega. The young actress has positioned herself as one of the most sought-after performers in Hollywood since Netflix premiered the series 'Wednesday' this last year. Other names being considered are Camila Mendes and Danny Ramirez, two other stars who have gained a lot of fame in recent years.

The adaptation has generated controversy in social networks. Critics mainly blame the nonsense of placing this Lorca drama in the United States when it is a sample of Andalusian costumbrismo. In addition, the absence of Spanish representation in what for now is the casting has also been pointed out.

But we would like to know what you think about this. We will read all of you in the comments below, see you soon.

ALL: Bye!